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Resume



Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

April 26, 1957

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ^{MAY} ~~June~~ 7 - Luncheon - Speaker, Dr. W. Earl Armstrong, Director of National Council of Accrediting Teacher Education.

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We are enclosing our new schedule of courses for the summer. Five of the 43 courses on schedule are new. These are: 2-331, Significant Books of the Twentieth Century; 2-243, Using Visuals Effectively; 2-139, Library Techniques; 2-262, The World's Main Languages; and 3-6, Preparatory Mathematics for Introductory Statistics. You will find descriptions of these courses in the leaflet.

We hope you will call the attention of your students to the opportunities in summer courses. Some of you will want to take advantage of long summer evenings to carry on studies in which you are interested. This is to remind you that as an instructor you are charged only the registration fee of \$5 a course.

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A REVIEW OF GRADUATE SCHOOL LECTURES

Our family farmers were the main source of the American creed that blends belief in enterprise, belief in democracy, and belief in technology, in the opinion of Bushrod Allin, whose lecture on "Rural Influences on the American Politico-Economic System," drew a record crowd.

The four major influences of this creed on our culture have been: the abolition of the aristocracy of the "well-born", the abolition of human slavery, the regulation by government of corporate enterprise, and the broad-scale assumption by government of responsibility for maintaining agricultural prices and incomes.

In Dr. Allin's view, the hybrid vigor of the American system comes from a cross between political democracy and corporate capitalism. But the invention

of the corporation has created some problems too. The corporation is more than individual. It is an economic institution with economic power that can be used either for or against the public interest.

As to the future, Dr. Allin believes the frontier of America today is Suburbia, where families on small farms supplement their inadequate farm income with earnings in industry. The individual farmer may exert more powerful influence on government through participation in organizations with national lobbies than through his vote and his contact with his congressman.

Work, thrift, family responsibility--these are the values that have been nurtured and promoted by religious life in rural America. On the plus side, these values have conserved moral codes and have meant lower divorce rates, less crime and less suicide. They have kept the rural population of this country conservative and in some cases reactionary. Rank denominationalism and in some instances the development of rural slums are two effects on the minus side.

In summing up the influences of rural religion on American culture, Carl C. Taylor spoke of the durability of the values to which our farm families adhere. This is one of the qualities of American life that invariably impresses perceptive visitors from abroad.

Dr. Taylor also spoke of the uniqueness of farming as an occupation. The farmer, working alone a thousand hours a year, practices meditation and philosophy unknowingly. More than any other kind of worker, he is a co-partner with nature. The dispersed farmsteads in which all members of the family work--the historic farm development in America--provided a natural setting for the development of mores of work, thrift, and family cooperation.

Public schools of America are more nearly folk-made than any schools in the world. A symbol of self-government, our schools have strengthened the democratic processes by providing experience in self-government in the selection of teachers and election of boards.

Experience with vocational agriculture shows that it is possible to have Federal aid for education without Federal control.

These were two of the points made by Howard Dawson in his lecture on "The Influence of Rural Education on American Culture." Dr. Dawson, who is director of rural education for the National Education Association, also said that contrary to prevalent views, rural education has not disappeared from the United States.

It is still a major enterprise with an enrollment of 12 million students and employing nearly half of the teachers in public schools. School buses in which students now travel 7 million miles a day make up the safest transportation system in the world.

The number of school districts has decreased--as a result of consolidation in the past 25 years--from 127,000 to 59,000. But too many systems are still reminiscent of ox-cart days, Dr. Dawson says. Nearly two-thirds of them employ only one teacher. Many of the problems can't be solved without fundamental reorganization of local districts.

FROM OUR APRIL FACULTY LUNCHEON

The idea that faculty members should play an important, collaborative role in the administration of a college is a relatively new one in the United States. In Europe, it goes back to the Middle Ages when the first colleges were established by communities of scholars, who both taught in the schools and administered them. The idea was introduced in this country in the latter part of the 19th century by American scholars who had studied in European universities, particularly those in Germany. A consequence was the organization of the American Association of University Professors.

We were reminded of the gains that college teachers have made in academic freedom and tenure over the past four decades by Ralph F. Fuchs, general secretary of the AAUP, who spoke at the faculty luncheon in April.

Dr. Fuchs, who is on leave from the Law School of Indiana University, said there is a growing awareness of the importance of academic freedom. Professors must be receptive to new techniques, equipment, discussions, comparisons. The pragmatic caste of our society forbids our colleges from being ivory towers. Instead it stimulates and invigorates the search for truth. But it isn't consistent with higher education for college teaching to be tailored to political orthodoxy. College teachers must have political as well as academic freedom if they are to maintain their integrity as citizens and as teachers.

Toward this end, the AAUP has, in the past two years, drawn up principles of political freedom as opposed to academic freedom. These say that invocation of the fifth amendment or membership in the Communist Party cannot be grounds for dismissal per se but do constitute grounds for inquiry by judicial processes.

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One of the major changes in our program of studies this coming year reflects our decision to drop courses in international relations. This follows a steady decline in the enrollment in these courses that has come as various universities in the area have expanded their offerings in this field and the State Department and other international agencies have increased their efforts to train personnel. It brings to a close a program developed by leaders in the field--Duncan Hall, former historical advisor to the British Embassy, Clayton Whipple, deputy administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, and Francis O. Wilcox, assistant secretary, Bureau of International Affairs, Department of State. Mr. Whipple has been associated with the Graduate School since 1942, Dr. Wilcox since 1946, and Dr. Hall, who served as chairman of the program, since 1947.

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A lecture series on applications of radioisotopes and related elements to agricultural research has been proposed to our committees on biological and physical sciences. And we are considering it. The course--one of our pioneering efforts--has been dropped because the teachers, Sterling Hendricks and M. E. Jefferson, were unable to give the time to it. Our program at the National Institutes of Health offers a course in the application of radioisotopes and their application to medical science. If you have an interest in the proposed lecture series and ideas on speakers and topics, we shall be most grateful for your comments.

Although we maintain no placement service, Registrar Constance G. Coblentz receives requests, from time to time, for the names of students in fields where there are shortages. A recent one --from the internal audit office of the District of Columbia--asks for an internal auditor (trainee). The request points up a great scarcity of candidates with qualifications. There is a large demand in the Federal service for these employees. For this reason, the Graduate School is planning its 1957-58 course offerings with a view to increased training in the field of internal audit.

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Congratulations go to Elmer Wesley as the winner of the award, "Outstanding Apprentice of the Year." Mr. Wesley is a student in the Photo Paste Make-Up class and is an apprentice printer at the Washington Daily News.

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IN THE NEWS

Two faculty members of the Graduate School are serving on the interagency task force recently established to review government procurement policies and procedures. Julius Silverstein, who teaches Government Defense Contracts, is vice-chairman of the committee and Tony M. Baldauf, who teaches Federal Purchasing, Federal Contracting and Management of Government Supply is one of the members. The task force was established by the Administrator of the General Services Administration on the request of President Eisenhower to see if small businesses can participate more fully in defense contract work.

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Secretary Benson named P. V. Cardon chairman of the committee on American-German cooperation in agricultural research. Other members are on the staff of the Department of Agriculture and the Land Grant Colleges. The committee will develop and implement plans for the exchange of personnel and information between the two countries.

Sincerely,



T. Roy Reid
Director